

AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION

Amend the title of the application as follows:

A METHOD OF FORMING A HYDROFORM HEAT-ACTIVATED STRUCTURAL
FOAM REINFORCED HYDROFORM

Amend the specification by inserting, before the first line following the title, the following **sentence**:

This application is a continuation of and claim the benefit of the filing date of
copending application number 09/459,756 filed on December 10, 1999, now U.S.
Patent No. 6,668,457.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 6, line 11 as follows:

An example of a preferred structural foam 16 formulation is an epoxy-based material that may include an ethylene copolymer or terpolymer that is commercially available from L&L Products of Romeo, Michigan, under the designations L5206, L5207, L5208 and L5209. One advantage of the preferred structural foam materials 16 ^{[[18]]} over prior art materials is the preferred materials can be processed in several ways. The preferred materials can be processed by injection molding, extrusion or with a mini-applicator extruder. This enables the creation of part designs that exceed the capability of most prior art materials.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 9, line 8 as follows:

During the curing cycle, the structural foam 16 is heated to a temperature higher than the temperature used during application of the foam material 16 ^{[[18]]} to the tube 14. This higher temperature causes activation of the expansion and curing properties of the structural foam 16 by initiating chemical decomposition of the

blowing agent and curing agent additives. FIG. 4 illustrates the position of the structural foam 16 after the curing cycle. As shown, the structural foam 16 adheres to the inner surface of tube 12 and the outer surface of tube 14. After the curing process, the end caps (not shown) are removed.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 9, line 21 as follows:

Alternatively, the structural foam 16 may be applied to the tubular assembly 12, 14 using an extruder or injection process, wherein molten structural foam 16 is dispensed into key sections of the member to be reinforced. In this manner, the molten structural foam material 16 ~~[[18]]~~ flows into the cavity to be reinforced. Another method for applying the structural foam 16 to the tubular assembly 12, 14 includes using structural foam 16 pellets. The pellets are inserted into the cavity between the tubes 12, 14 and cured as described above.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 10, line 1 as follows:

The application of the structural ~~foam~~ from 16 ~~[[18]]~~ to the tube 14, increases the structural strength and stiffness of the tube 14. As a result, the overall structural strength and stiffness of the hydroform 10 is increased.